

## News Briefs

**Aerodome usage**

Anyone wishing to operate a personal owned vehicle on the aerodome must have an approved POV permit and a flightline driver's license. All planned usage of any part of the aerodome, including the SAC Alert are must be coordinated with airfield management. For more informaiton or questions, call Harold Treadway at Ext. 2996.

**Blood Drive**

A blood drive sponsored by the United Blood Services will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Community Center. All participants will receive a free t-shirt and be eligible to win a \$50 Wal-mart gift card. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Shirrisha Peake at Ext. 2708.


**ASIST**

An Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training class will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 29 and March 30 at the chapel annex. Participants must sign up before March 28. The training will focus on intervention skills when confronted with a suicidal situation. For more information, call Ext. 2239.

**Volunteers needed**

At least 10 volunteers are needed to assist in conducting various arts and crafts project during the Hearts Apart activity social from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center Thursday. Volunteers are asked to e-mail Lee Chouinard at lee.chouinard@columbus.af.mil.

## Inside



**FEATURE 10**

Columbus AFB NCO supports mudslide relief

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE										
PHASE II				PHASE III				WING SORTIE BOARD		
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown
37th (06-15)	5.99 days	0.39 days	April 3	48th (06-07)	5.00 days	2.75 days	April 7	T-37	1514	1507
41st (07-01)	-1.75 days	-1.10 days	April 26	50th (06-07)	1.80 days	2.03 days	April 7	T-38C	694	633
								T-1A	639	633
Annual 13555 6114 6114										
Graduation speaker: Lt. Gen. Dennis R. Larsen, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command vice commander										



Columbus AFB head chaplain, Lt. Col. Joseph Vu, talks with Air Force chief chaplain, Maj. Gen. Charles Baldwin, before the 2006 annual prayer luncheon. General Baldwin was the keynote speaker for the event.

## AF chief chaplain visits Columbus AFB

**Airman Alyssa Miles**  
14th Flying Training Wing

Prayer luncheons are a great time when people can come together and acknowledge their dependence on God and celebrate the heritage of their particular religious faith, Chaplain Baldwin said.

The luncheon featured scripture readings, special music and prayers for the nation, leaders and the military, including prisoners of war and those who are missing in action.

Although being a chaplain is his profession, the general said it is also a privilege.

“Chaplains provide worship opportunities, religious rights and cere-

## KC-135 ops — the flow behind the mission

**Master Sgt. Scott King**  
40th Air Expeditionary Group

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM** — They have their hands in virtually every aspect of the KC-135 Stratotanker mission here — they are the flow, the operational heartbeat.

It starts at the top with their commander, runs through the operations officer, to a KC-135 mission planning cell, then to the aircrews.

Then there is a support cast comprising 12 people who work in intelligence, crew communication, flight records, life support and flight medicine specialties. Each one of these sections is key to the team and vital to getting gas safely delivered to our customer on time.

It’s pretty clear that KC-135 operations is all-encompassing and it takes a lot of teamwork and coordination to produce the end result — fuel in the air providing air bridges for the B-52 Stratofortress positioned here, as well as other coalition aircraft supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I love seeing the Buffs taking off each day loaded with the fuel our aircraft provide, and loaded with bombs on their way to their tasking” said Master Sgt. Tim Clark, 28th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron instructor and in-flight refueling operator. “Knowing that our troops on the ground are safer because of the B-52’s presence keeps me going.”

A boom operator by trade, Sergeant Clark likes to be airborne in the KC-135 pumping gas to the bombers.

“If I’m lucky, I get to fly once or twice a month,” he said. “I like my job and I never get tired of going to the back of the plane for an air refueling mission — it’s always a thrill, and it’s awesome being involved with day-to-day flying operations. After 15 years of supporting the KC-135 mission, I still can’t believe I’m lucky enough to have this job and actually get paid to do it. Where else in the world can you and two other guys jump in a plane and fly it around the world?”

The KC-135’s principle mission is air refueling, but the airframe also serves as airlift for troops and equipment as well as having medevac capability.

All these missions fall under the control of operations — one vital aspect of the ops folks is planning.

The 28th also has three planners and two assistant operations officers who do the majority of the planning and scheduling functions for the squadron. They man the operations desk around-the-clock communicating with the Combined Air Operations Center daily and the B-52 mission planning cell, so they can adjust the schedules as needed. Without planners, the entire KC-135 mission here would cease.



Staff Sgt. Doug Nicodemus

**Senior Airman Joshua Beers inspects a parachute for a KC-135 Stratotanker. This item is inspected every 30 days. Airman Beers is a life support technician with the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron at a forward deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. He is deployed from Barksdale AFB, La.**

Every well-tuned machine has solid administrative support as well.

“I provide administrative support and client system administrator support for the tanker mission here,” said Staff Sgt. Becky Studniski, squadron information manager. “I wasn’t aware of how the mission here directly impacts the global war on terrorism. Our KC-135s are critical to sustaining air superiority. Without the refueling capability we bring to the table, the B-52s wouldn’t get to Afghan airspace and on to their targets — our enemies.”

Behind the scenes of every KC-135 mission, many people oversee, plan, coordinate and support — this team is vital to the heartbeat of building air bridges — KC-135 ops.





Congratulations to the 48th Flying Training Squadron on its selection as the top operations squadron in Air Education and Training Command.

**14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED**

As of press time, **32 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed** worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



**SILVER WINGS**

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**Submission Deadline**

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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## Movin' on up



Airman Alyssa Miles

Furniture Management Office workers Stanley Tucker and Joe Hollowell forklift tables to the second and third floors of Enlisted Dorm 544 Wednesday. Residents of the building received various pieces of furniture to furnish their adjoining room.

## DUI status

“Don’t Drink and Drive”

Last DUI: March 5, 2006

Days since last DUI: 12

Unit: 14th Civil Engineer Squadron



## Career Assistance Advisor Tip of the Week

I have a line number for master sergeant. What are some of my key duties and responsibilities?

As a SNCO your primary purpose in the Air Force is to lead and manage teams to accomplish the mission. You will also be expected to support and explain leaders' decisions. A very important responsibility is to be an active, visible leader because your troops are going to look up to you for guidance. Remember our NCOs are going to be future leaders, so help develop them into better leaders and supervisors. Always remember to exceed the standards and expectations you have given to your NCOs and Airmen. Finally, continue your professional developmental because personal growth never ends.

To speak with the career assistance advisor, call Master Sgt. Shelli Fisher at Ext. 7009.

## Like father, like son



Courtesy photo

Airman Lance Bowes visits with Chief Master Sgt. Christi Bowes, 14th Mission Support Group, and father, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Bowes, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, after his graduation from Basic Military Training. Sergeant Bowes was part of the graduation's review, along with Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander.

# Clinic needs proactivity from patients

The 14th Medical Group encourages its patients to become proactively involved in their healthcare, enabling the staff to better meet medical needs.

"Doctors are placed in difficult situations when patients wait until they're sick to make an appointment and proceed to address all ongoing medical needs at once," said Maj. Lisa Davison, 14th MDG Clinical Medicine Flight commander. "He or she either spends more time than was allotted for the appointment, making other patients wait; or the doctor has to inconvenience patients by asking them to come back at another time. "Patients who understand appointment options and keep us informed of their needs should help us decrease clinic wait time and improve the quality of care," she said.

\* Acute appointments are designed to take care of urgent conditions, for example, a person with high fever or someone unable to keep food down

"These appointments require 15 minutes to address an issue," Major Davison said. "It takes just a few minutes to assess the symptoms and provide care."

Patients who are acutely ill and require same-day care should inform the staff of any other health concerns, but understand that a second appointment may be scheduled to address non-urgent issues. People are also encouraged to inform the staff if other family members are acutely ill so that accommodations can be made to take care of the entire family.

\* Wellness appointments are designed to discuss a patient's overall health, needed medications and preventative tests. "Well baby" visits, and women's and men's health exams fall into this category. These appointments are 30 minutes long and typically scheduled within seven to 14 days.

"No one likes to go to the doctor, and many of us think we should only go when we're sick," Major Davison said. "But the truth is, your doctor would like to help you maintain good health more than he or she wants to help you feel better when you're ill."

\* Other appointments are available for ongoing non-urgent issues. These typically last 15 minutes and are scheduled within seven to 14 days.

"The 14th Medical Group staff will do its best to match patients with the appointment type to meet needs," Major Davison said. "Patients can help by being proactive with their health care and letting us know what their needs are."

Availability of appointments can be minimized if patients fail to show for their appointment, or cancel at the last minute. This makes it difficult for the clinic to schedule those appointments for someone who may need it. To schedule an appointment at the Columbus AFB clinic, call 434-2273. (Courtesy of the 14th Medical Group and 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office)

## Parents be aware of child poisoning

Staff Sgt. Jamie Somers  
14th Medical Support Squadron

In observance of Poison Prevention Week, the Columbus AFB pharmacy will have information sheets available at the clinic.

Here are a few basic tips provided by the Poison Prevention Counsel to help decrease the potential for poisonings:

- \* Before giving medications to children, always read the label.
- \* Use child-resistant tops (remember these are child resistant, not childproof)
- \* Keep medication and cleaning supplies locked up
- \* Keep everything in the original package
- \* Never refer to medication as "candy"

Poison Prevention Week was introduced in the 1960's to increase awareness and decrease poisoning mishaps. The CPSC stated that in 1960 the toll of deaths from poisoning was an alarming 450 children per year! Since then, the death toll has dropped to 30 per year.

If a possible poisoning is suspected at home, contact the Poison Control Center immediately. They are open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and are manned with trained professionals. They can be contacted at 1-800-222-1222. People in need of immediate assistance may also call 911.

Your direct source for current news and information on America's Air Force



# Single parents, children enjoy day of spring time fun

Twenty-five children and 14 single parents attended a spring arts & crafts event Saturday at the Services Complex.

The Family Support Center used donations to fund the spring gathering and is currently planning another event for the fall.

The stations at the event were manned by 19 base personnel who volunteered their time to work on crafts and play games with the children. Children and parents were able to make eight different crafts, including grass buddies, glitter bottles, dancing leprechauns, rainbow mobiles and popsicle puzzles. They also participated in face painting and played musical chairs, Twister and a target game. Everyone who attended was treated to a sandwich and chips for lunch.

The Single Parent Group holds monthly luncheons at noon the first Wednesday of each month at the Columbus Club Happy Lounge. There is no membership fee and it's open to all base personnel.

Guest speakers periodically attend the

luncheons important information for single parent families.

"There are 11.9 million single parents in the United States," said Lee Chouinard, family life readiness consultant. "About 28 percent of all children in our country under the age of 18 live with one parents. Single parents are no longer just women – men now comprise one-sixth of the nation's single parents."

"A single parents group is important," said Master Sgt. LaShon Webb, 14th Mission Support Squadron. "It gives you the chance to network with other single parents and let you know that you are not alone when going through difficult parenting situations."

Ms. Chouinard would like to thank everyone who volunteered in support of the spring gathering.

For more information on the Single Parent's Group, call the group's president, Senior Airman Tabitha Diaz, at Ext. 2522 or Ms. Chouinard at Ext. 2631. (Courtesy of the 14th Mission Support Squadron)



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Mernetta McCook, 14th Security Forces Squadron, helps her daughter Makayla, 2, make a Rainbow Mobile at the Single Parent's Group's spring arts and crafts event Saturday.



# Respect... the tie that binds the NCO corps

**Master Sgt. Mark Haviland**  
Air Combat Command

**LANGLEY AFB, Va.** — The transition to noncommissioned officer, and later, to senior noncommissioned officer can be a daunting experience for any Airman, but Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, Air Combat Command's command chief, has words of advice for those who make the journey.

The key to success, Chief Popp says, is respect — not only earning it and keeping it, but also understanding the fundamentals behind the word itself. It's a message he delivers regularly to new NCOs and SNCOs:

## R = responsibility

"Winston Churchill once said, 'The price of greatness is responsibility.' The 'r' in the word 'respect' stands for responsibility. As an NCO in the world's greatest air and space force, we expect you to stand up and step up to your responsibilities," the chief said. "It is your responsibility to ensure the Airmen are housed properly, trained properly, equipped properly and ready to deploy to carry out the mission."

## E = example

"What you do speaks so loudly, your Airmen may not hear what you're saying," the chief said.

Gen. George S. Patton once said, "Troops, you're always on parade!"

"You're an example to your fellow Airmen when you're in the shoppette Saturday night when you've got your earring in and are purchasing those three cases of beer. You're an example to your fellow

Americans when you deploy to fight the hurricanes, floods, or forest fires," Chief Popp said. "And you're an example when you wear this uniform overseas, driving that convoy or working at the Camp Bucca Internment Center. To earn respect, you must set the right example."

## S = standards

"If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything! If you don't enforce the standards, then who will? Never, never, never apologize for enforcing our high standards. When we don't enforce the technical orders, the Air Force Instructions, the general orders — equipment gets wrecked, people's lives are placed in jeopardy, and our fight to win the global war on terror gets set back. To earn respect, you must stand up and enforce the standards."

## P = performance

There is no second place in war; you either win or you lose. NCOs are responsible for their individual performance, their team's performance and the overall outcome of the mission. This war on terrorism is much bigger than Iraq or Afghanistan. When you put on our team's jersey, this is a joint fight — that's why it says, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines.

"Many NCOs now are familiar with 15 straight years of deployments to Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operations Northern and Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. As we move ahead, we will be asking all Airmen to step up and perform at 100 percent of their ability. To earn respect, you must continue to perform."

## E = evaluate

"I believe every NCO shows up to these fiery situations with a bucket in each hand. In the left is a bucket of water and in the right is a bucket of gasoline," the chief said. "Which one do you use? The water to extinguish the situation or the gasoline to get it roaring out of control? I challenge NCOs to get the facts before they use either bucket — evaluate the situation before you empty one of those buckets. To earn respect, you must evaluate before you take action."

## C = communications

"I have found that Airmen are always down on what they are not up on. How well do you share the 'big picture' with your Airmen? How well do you provide your performance expectations to your Airmen? Do you share: the who, the where, the when and most importantly the why with them? To earn respect, you must keep the lines of communications open."

## T = Taking care of Airmen

"Your Airmen do not care how much you know — until they know how much you care about them!

"If I asked you to tell me about your top three performing Airmen, could you? Could you tell me the: date they arrived on station, their family status, hobbies, goals, their career development course score or their physical training score? Could you tell me what they did last weekend?"

"Sadly, what I routinely find across our Air Force are supervisors who can only tell me these things after a suicide, a fatality, or serious accident has occurred.

"To earn respect, you must know and take care of your Airmen."

# Effective leadership: Every Airman's responsibility

**Capt. Kevin McMahon**

14th Security Forces Squadron

When I was presented the opportunity to write this article a number of things immediately came to mind as potential topics. I could talk about core values. I could discuss my experiences at Columbus AFB as an acting squadron commander. I could write about the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. Instead, I want to share thoughts on a topic which impacts all of us ... from newest Airman to senior officer. I'd like to discuss leadership in hopes that what I've put on paper not only relates to the topics listed above, but also encourages you to reflect on your personal leadership style.

Leadership is not solely restricted to commanders or to officers, but rather, we are all leaders. You became a leader the moment you walked into the recruiter's office and signed the dotted line; no one forced you to do it. You led by example as you walked through that door; others have

and will follow you.

There is no "perfect leader" or single leadership style; rather, there are several different types, both good and bad. Some choose to lead out of fear; some lead by gaining respect of their superiors, peers and subordinates.

There are several leadership qualities that I have learned over the years, some before I entered the military and some on active duty. I would like to share a few of the qualities that I value in my leaders.

1. Professional competence in your primary duties, whether you are a first term Airman or a senior officer. The effectiveness which you accomplish your mission is a direct reflection of your leadership skills and potential. It establishes trust with

those you work for and with. Without competence, there is no guarantee that

when the mission gets tough, you will know what to do.

2. Loyalty. Not just to your squadron, group or wing, but loyalty to the oath you took to serve. Loyalty to all the men and women who serve alongside you in the profession of arms. Loyalty to the mission and your willingness to do what it takes to ensure it is completed to the best of your abilities. Loyalty to your

family — by blood and in uniform.

3. Selflessness ... helping those who need you and looking for opportunities to reflect credit on others.

4. Urgency and decisiveness. People have to be empowered to act, to take risks

to see that the mission is accomplished. You may someday find yourself as the highest ranking person around. There may not be time to ask someone above you if you should take action. You must make a quick educated decision, as your life or the lives of those who follow you may depend on it.

The Global War on Terror has continued longer than the period of time we were involved in World War II, and it won't end anytime soon. So long as there are terrorists who want to impose a culture of hatred and fear, leaders will be needed and called upon. We are all leaders impacting events and broader strategic outcomes, whether we step as a commander, and NCOIC or a supporting troop.

Leadership gives meaning to what we do and is constantly refined. The most important question is not, "How do I become a great leader?" but "How do I influence people to follow me and what effort am I making to contribute and to better serve?"

*"Leadership is not solely restricted to commanders or to officers, but rather, we are all leaders."*

**St. Patty's Day party:** The Columbus Club invites the BLAZE TEAM to its St. Patty's day party from 7 to 11 p.m. tonight featuring Irish music, green beverages, corned beef, cabbage and potatoes. Food is complimentary for club members. Beverage specials will be available throughout the night. Call Ext. 2490 for more information.

**Spring break trip to Orlando:** Register at the information, ticket and travel office for this trip to Orlando, Fla., March 26 to March 30. Cost is \$415 for one person, \$265 each for two people in the same room, \$215 each for three people in one room and \$190 each for four people in one room. Cost includes transportation, four nights lodging and shuttle service while in Orlando. Discount Disney tickets are available at the ITT office. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

**Lunch buffets:** The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Tuesday's new menu includes meat loaf, Southern fried pork chops, veggies and homemade apple pie. Wednesday's menu features a southern comfort buffet with fried chicken, smoked brisket and cobbler. Thursday is the backyard barbecue and Friday's menu is a bonsai buffet with teriyaki chicken, beef vegetable stir fry, fried rice and egg rolls. Cost is \$5.50 per person and includes iced tea or lemonade. Call Ext. 2490.

**Crafts classes:** The arts and crafts center's upcoming crafts classes for March feature seasonal projects. Adult classes are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Upcoming classes include a picket fence Easter door hanging, an Easter bunny door hanging, a bunny trail yard decoration, a shelf bunny, a spring door hanging and a wooden patchwork heart hanging.

The youth classes are offered Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Upcoming classes include a personalized pillow case, a bunny bell necklace, a wooden bunny, a clay pot Easter candy dish, a Easter tic-tac-toe game, a clay saucer lady bug and a puzzle piece picture frame.

A display of all projects is available in the arts and crafts lobby.

Participants must register at least four days prior to the class date. Call Ext. 7836 for more information.

**Free automobile maintenance classes:** The auto hobby shop offers a free minor maintenance class for women

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Call Ext. 7842 for more information.

**Home decor workshops:** The arts and crafts center offers a class at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. March 30 to make a boy's or girl's toy box. Cost is \$30 and includes all supplies. Make a garden bench for \$35 in this class at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. April 13. Register at least four days prior to the class start date. Call Ext. 7836 for more information.

**Spring break bowling special:** The bowling center offers 50-cents a game bowling and free shoe rental for students during spring break March 27 through March 31. Call Ext. 2426 for more information.

**Parent/teen outdoor adventure camp:** The youth center is accepting applications for this program open to families of active duty Air Force, Air Force reserve, their spouses and dependents, ages 12 to 14. The camp, lodging and meals are free. If selected the participants must pay for their own transportation to the camp. Camp is June 25 to July 2 in Colorado Springs, Co. The week long program is focused on creating a bonding experience for families through participation in various outdoor and indoor activities. Each person must be able to participate in a high and low ropes course, rock climbing, hiking, horseback riding, white water rafting and more. Deadline for submitting an application is April 5 at the youth center. Call Ext. 2504 for more information.

**Memphis Grizzlies honor military families:** Military families may enter a drawing for the opportunity to attend a 2006 Memphis Grizzlies home game by picking up an application at the information, ticket and travel office. The winner will receive passes to a game for up to 10 family members, two parking passes and a \$10 concessions voucher per person.

The chosen servicemember must have been deployed to the Middle East during the last four years for a period of no less than six months as a member of the U.S. armed forces.

Eligible applications will remain in the drawing for every home game so families only need apply one time. The Grizzlies Foundation staff will give winning families at least one week's notice before the game to coordinate plans to attend. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

**Whispering Pines Golf Course open house:** The staff at the golf course will have an open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April 1. There will be a sale on all pro shop merchandise and door prizes. One door prize ticket will be awarded with the purchase of \$20. Sign up for an annual membership and receive five door prize tickets. Purchase a golf greens fee punch card and receive two door prize tickets. Purchase an annual cart plan and receive an additional three door prize tickets. A free hot dog, chips and soda will be given for each of the purchases listed above and will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Door prizes include at least two \$100 pro shop gift certificates and three \$50 pro shop gift certificates. Drawings will be held at 3 p.m. and winners must be present to win. Gift certificates will only be valid on April 1 for in stock merchandise.

**National Library Week:** The base library celebrates National Library Week April 2 through April 8 with a "Know Your Library from A to Z" contest. Pick up an entry form and rules at the library starting April 2. All entries must be turned in by close of business April 6. One point given for each answer for a possible high score of 26. Call Ext. 2935.

**Boss and buddy night:** The Columbus Club offers an all-ranks boss and buddy night from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays in the Landing Lounge. A free taco bar is available for club members and nonmembers pay \$2.95. Wings are 25-cents each for club members and 50-cents for nonmembers from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Beverage specials are also available. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

**Paintball birthday parties:** The paintball field can be reserved for birthday celebrations, grudge matches or organizational play. Cost for groups of 10 or more is \$15 per person. Groups with less than 10 people must pay \$20 per person. Cost includes range fee, marker, mask, body armor, carbon dioxide and 200 paintballs. For more information, call Ext. 2507.

**Quick shot bingo:** The club offers this new program during lunch at the Columbus Club, during the Boss and Buddy Thursday nights in the Landing and from 5 to 6 p.m. Fridays at the Enlisted Lounge. Cost is \$1 per card and pays from \$3 to \$1,000 for winning combinations. Call Ext. 2490.

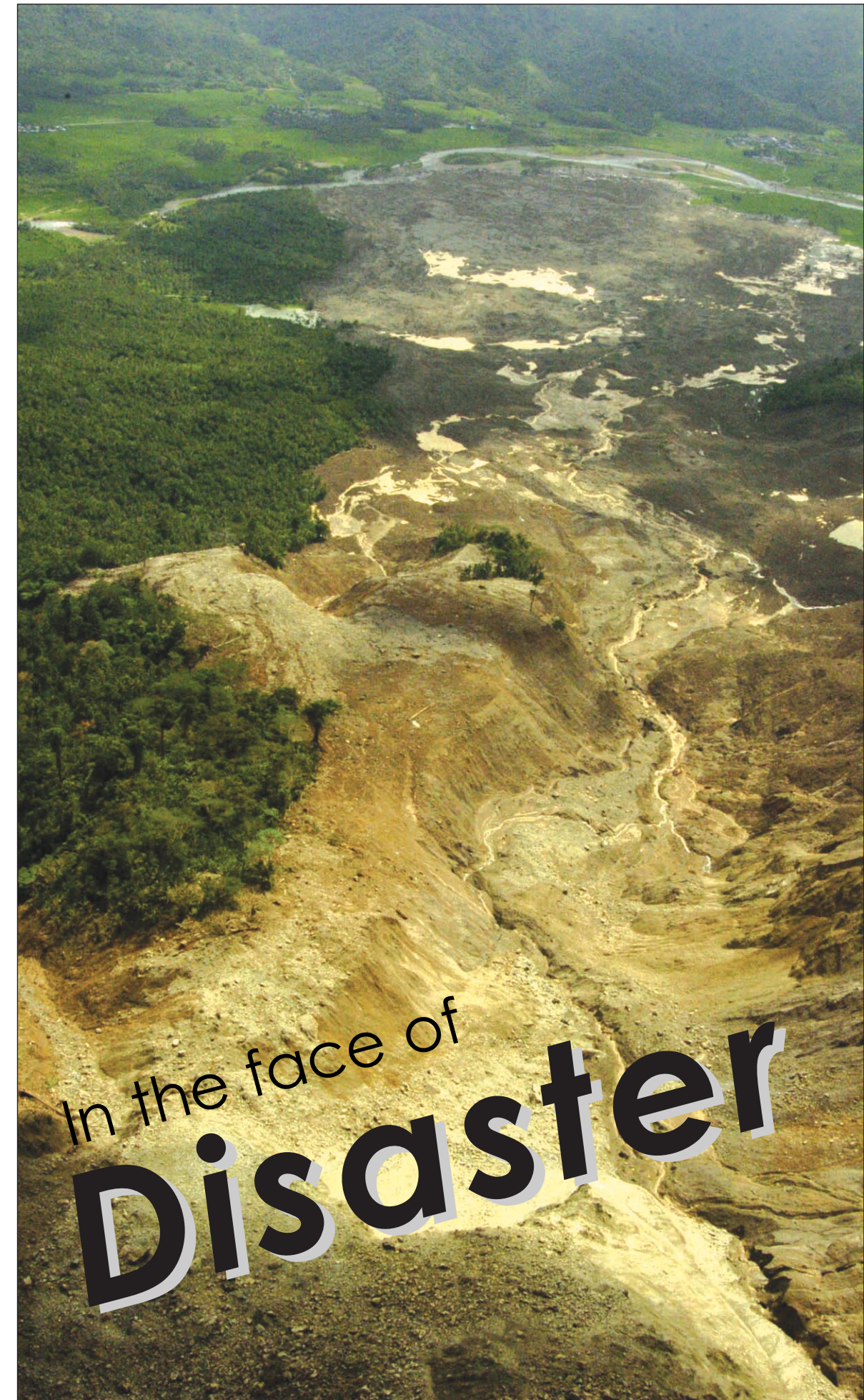
## Buffet feast



Pam Wickham

**Master Sgt. Ed Chamberlin, 14th Mission Support Group, enjoys the all-you-can-eat lunch buffet at the Columbus Club. The club's buffet is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Cost is \$5.50 per person and includes beverage and dessert. Call Ext. 2490.**





In the face of  
**Disaster**

An aerial photo taken from a Marine CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter shows the countryside destroyed by a landslide in Leyte, Philippines.

Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Michael D. Kennedy

# Columbus AFB NCO supports mudslide relief

Senior Airman Cecilia Rodriguez  
14th Flying Training Wing

The term “expeditionary Airman” recently became a very tangible concept for one Columbus AFB NCO. In just 30 short minutes, he was eating, sleeping and breathing the notion.

Staff Sgt. Derrick Berry, an air traffic controller with the 14th Operations Support Squadron, left for Exercise Balikatan 2006 on Feb. 7 . His task was to serve as an air traffic control liaison during the annual three-week exercise in the Philippines, which promotes interoperability between the U.S. and Filipino armed services.

There, Sergeant Berry interfaced with tower controllers at Clark AB for almost two weeks before a disastrous force of nature radically changed his mission.

On Feb. 17, a mudslide caused by 10 days of steady rain destroyed a village and displaced thousands of residents on the island of Leyte. Two days later, Sergeant Berry was incorporated with the 36th Contingency Response Group and found himself forward-deployed in support of a desperate, international relief effort.

“They told me I had 30 minutes to pack my things,” Sergeant Berry said. “All I took with me was one change of BDUs and one change of civilian clothes.”

He and 22 other personnel assigned to the CRG boarded a C-130 destined for Tacloban Airport, about 60 miles north of the catastrophic site.

“We got off the plane and went straight to work unloading cargo,” Sergeant Berry said.

His unit’s mission was to facilitate the movement of humanitarian relief supplies from C-130 and C-17 aircraft to U.S. Marine and Filipino air force helicopters for delivery to the disaster area. The group also helped transload supplies to civilian trucks, which then made the hazardous five-hour trip south.

“I slept on a couch in the airport and ate MREs for the first three days while I waited for a hotel room,” Sergeant Berry said. “My days typically started at about 8 a.m. and ended between 9 p.m. and midnight. The hard, manual labor was a change of pace from my normal duties in the tower.

“The conditions people brave in order to accomplish the mission are not always apparent from the tower cab,” he said. “It was humbling to experience the sweat and hard work first



Airman Alyssa Miles

hand, and it really drove home the fact that the mission is much bigger than air traffic control.”

Still, his experience as a controller proved just as mission-essential to relief operations.

“Because I know air traffic procedures, I spent a little bit of time in the tower and was able to tell the controllers what our U.S. aircraft were doing, how long they were going to be there and what they might ask for,” he said.

His invaluable efforts did not go unnoticed.

“Sergeant Berry’s experience was instrumental to safe operations for our aircrews in those first hours after our initial arrival started,” said Lt. Col. Keith Albrecht, 36th CRG deputy commander. “He ensured arrival and departure procedures passed through ‘safe corridors’ for C-130s and a wide array of U.S. and Philippine air force helicopters.”

Sergeant Berry’s Columbus AFB leadership echoes the confidence in his performance.

“His work in the Philippines does not surprise me a bit,” said Capt. Jesse Hedge, 14th OSS Airfield Operations Flight commander.

“Sergeant Berry performs at this level every day, it doesn’t matter if he’s deployed or at home. He personifies the expeditionary Airman and is a role model for all of us to emulate.”

*“It was humbling to experience the sweat and hard work first hand, and it really drove home the fact that the mission is much bigger than air traffic control.”*

~ Staff Sgt. Derrick Berry  
14th Operations Support Squadron

Right: Staff Sgt. Derrick Berry, an air traffic controller assigned to the 14th Operations Support Squadron, was one of more than 2,000 U.S. and Philippine troops who worked together to assist in the humanitarian relief efforts for victims of the Feb. 17 landslide on the island of Leyte, Philippines.  
Below: Sergeant Berry (far left) works alongside fellow Airmen incorporated with the 36th Contingency Response Group to unload relief supplies.



U.S. Air Force photo



Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Sunday:  
9:15 a.m. — Mass  
10:30 a.m. — CCD  
5 p.m. — Confessions  
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass  
Tuesday:  
7 p.m. — RCIA

Protestant

Sunday:  
9 a.m. — Adult and children’s  
Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. — Contemporary service at  
the services complex  
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship  
service at the chapel sanctuary  
Monday:  
7 p.m. — Bible study fellowship  
Wednesday:  
11:30 a.m. — Lunchtime study  
5 p.m. — Pot luck supper  
6 p.m. — Video study  
A Case for Kids  
Pioneer Clubs  
Thursday:  
9 a.m. — Ladies Bible Study  
For information, call Ext. 2500.

Family Support Center

*(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)*

Deployment briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are held daily at 9 a.m. Family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Ext. 2974 or Ext. 2790.

Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

Communication workshop

This class will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday and will examine communication skills using personal perspectives, communication models and body language.

Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up

to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Hearts Apart social

A social gathering for families of personnel deployed or remote for more than 30 days is at 5:30 p.m. March 23. Information, refreshments and prizes will be provided.

Sponsorship training

A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors is at 9 a.m. March 28. Training includes the importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers.

Relocation assistance

Those relocating or making a permanent change of station can stop by the family support center for information about new bases, checklists to make moving easier and suggestions for traveling with children.

Government applications

A workshop on federal employment and the Small Business administration is from 2:50 to 3:45 p.m. Thursday.

Free oil change

The Air Force Aid Society’s “Car Care Because We Care” program is available to Airmen enrolled in the First Term Airmen’s Center and spouses of active-duty Air Force members deployed or remote for more than 30 days. Call Ext. 2855.

Air Force Aid Society

The AFAS offers 24-hour emergency assistance. Possible aid includes interest-free loans, grants, car repairs and emergency travel. For more information, call the family support center.

Base Notes

COSC Scholarship Awards

The Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club will be presenting 2005 and 2006 Scholarship Awards at 6 p.m. April 11 at the Columbus Club. Cost is \$14 and the menu is London Broil with Au Jus. Club members will receive a \$2 discount. For more information, or to make a reservation, e-mail Jennifer Wood at woodtjgg@cableone.net or call 425-3059 by

Fighting temptation



Airman Alyssa Miles  
**Stephanie Smith, captain of the Biggest Losers’ “Lean Machines” team, is tempted by the “CE Cinderellas’j” team captain, Tammy Faris, with a box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts. Twenty-eight teams are currently participating in the base-wide weight loss competition.**

noon April 6. Non- attended reservations will be charged.

Post office promotional

BLAZE TEAM members can win a half or a whole book of stamps with every purchase of a 39 cent book of stamps at the base post office throughout Easter. For details on this promotion, call 2960.

Student Spouse workshop

Past, present and future student spouses are invited to a ceramic painting workshop at 6:30 p.m. April 12 at Kaboodles. Prices of the ceramics vary upon items chosen, and spouses will receive 15-percent discount on purchased items. For questions, more information, or reservation, call Allison Adair at 434-8714.

Commissary closure

Due to the air show, the commissary will be closed April 9. It will re-open April 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Yard inspections

As a reminder, on random Wednesdays of each month, squadron and group commanders conduct yard inspections. There are at least two inspections every month, so residents are encouraged to have yards in inspection order every Wednesday at

7:30 a.m. The family housing brochure, Columbus AFB Pamphlet 32-6002, includes the inspection standards and is available at the housing office. For more information, call the office at Ext. 7276.

Garage sales

On-base garage sales are only permitted the first Saturday of every month. Advertisements for sales are limited to yard signs or ads in the base paper only. Signs must be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. Displaying signs on utility poles and street signs is prohibited. Advertising yard sales in the local media, excluding the base newspaper, is also prohibited. People may locally advertise individual items for sale, such as automobiles, boats, washers, dryers or refrigerators. Columbus AFB housing areas are located on a federal installation and the civilian public may only enter a military installation on official business, open house functions or social visitations. Yard and carport sales do not fall within these criteria.

Thrift shop

The base thrift shop is open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays. Volunteers are needed. Consignments are accepted Thursdays during business hours until one hour before closing. For more information, call Ext. 2954.

**Daily historic home tours:** The public is invited to drop by or call the Mississippi Welcome Center or Columbus Historic Foundation for schedules of historic homes open for tours. For admission or more information, call (800) 920-3533.

**Community Volunteer Center:** People in search of volunteer opportunities can contact the Community Volunteer Center at 327-0807, or visit the office at 501 Seventh St. North, Suite 5, in the Plaza Building.

**Exchange Club:** The Exchange Club of Columbus meets at noon Thursdays at the Columbus Country Club. The organization is a community service group dedicated to programs and projects that aid in the prevention of child abuse. For more information, e-mail exchange clubof colubusms@yahoo.com.

**Tales from the Crypt:** Beginning March 27, costumed guides will lead narrated candlelight tours of historic Friendship Cemetery, site of the first Memorial Day observance in April, 1866. Admission is \$2 per person for non-students and \$1 per person for students. Tours begin at 7 p.m. and the last tour begins at 9:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in conjunction with the annual Spring Pilgrimage. For more information, call (800) 327-2686.

**Community-wide yard sale:** The Bartahatchie Community on Wolfe Road will have a community-wide yard sale from noon to 4 p.m. March 31 and starting at 6 a.m. April 1. There will be approximately 10 miles of sales. For more information, call Carla Rose at Ext. 7273.

**Trash to treasures:** An art, crafts, antiques and col-

lectibles sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 8 on the Columbus Fair grounds. For more information, call 328-5147 or 329-8783.

**Columbus Pilgrimage 10K Run:** This race will begin at 8 a.m. April 8 at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center. Participants will run through Columbus’ Historic District while viewing some of the South’s antebellum homes. The run will be completed on the new river walk along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Awards will be given to first overall, first masters and first grandmasters. Fore more information, Call O.K. Bryant at (662) 327-7688 or e-mail him at TKOKB2@aol.com

**For more event listings, visit [www.columbusms.org](http://www.columbusms.org), or [www.tupelo.net](http://www.tupelo.net).**

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees. Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week’s issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue. Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week’s issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

**Type of advertisement (circle one)**      Home      Transportation      Miscellaneous      Yard sales      Pets

Print advertisement \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(in case we need more information)

**Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:**  
Are you happy with the Silver Wings?    Yes ☐    No ☐  
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper?    News ☐    Sports ☐    Photos ☐    Other \_\_\_\_\_  
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil).



# NASCAR flies



Master Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

The Air Force Thunderbirds fly over the Las Vegas Motor Speedway to start the UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 Nextel Cup race, Sunday, March 12, 2006.



Master Sgt. Robert W. Valenco

The U.S. Air Force #21 Motorcraft race car driven by Ken Schrader makes its way around the track during the NASCAR UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, Nev., Sunday, March 12, 2006. The team's day ended with engine problems on lap 187, finishing in 41st place.



Master Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

Brig. Gen. Robertus Remkes, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, delivers an oath of enlistment to 24 Air Force delayed entry program members prior to the start of the UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 Nextel Cup race, Sunday, March 12, 2006, held at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

## Sports Shorts

### Bowling tournament

A nine-pin no-tap Scotch Doubles bowling tournament will be held at 7 p.m. today. Cost is \$20 per two-person team. Prizes will be awarded for team high total series, and men and women's individual high series. Prize money will be determined by the number of participating teams. Wearing green is highly recommended For more information, call Ext. 2426.

### Golf sign-ups

Any BLAZE TEAM member wishing to play intramural golf should sign up at with their squadron sports representative by April 3.

### Ten star all star basketball camp

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star summer basketball camp. The camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible to apply. Well-known basketball players like Michael Jordon, Tim Duncan, Grant Hill and Jerry Stackhouse have attended this camp.College Basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.